Remote Sensing Satellites

1091. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India leads among data providers and ISRO is all set to become a leader among other countries providing data using Remote Sensing Satellites;

(b) the areas where the data is made use of; and

(c) the world market gained, so far, and the foreign exchange earned during the year 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. With a constellation of indigenous state-of-the-art, operational Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) Satellites in orbit and with a unique institutional arrangement of National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) and with more than 500 active users with annual demand of more than 17,000 data products from the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), India is rated as one of the leading countries in the usage of satellite remote sensing data for many applications of direct relevance to national development.

(b) The satellite remote sensing data has been operationally used in the country in many areas such as the crop acreage and production estimation, biennial forest cover mapping, potential fishery zone mapping, wasteland mapping, hydro-geomorphological mapping for national drinking water mission, disaster management support in agricultural drought and flood management, environmental impact analysis, integrated land and water resources management, coastal zone regulation mapping, watershed management, irrigated command area management, urban sprawl studies, and infrastructure related mapping activities.

(c) The Indian remote sensing satellites are one of the top three data providers in the world market for medium resolutions data. This is being sold in North and South America, Europe and Asia. The total foreign exchange earned during 2002-03 is Rs. 2558.00 lakhs.